Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 23 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 24 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 22 Feb 2024 at 11:09

Confidence: High confidence, becoming low from Sunday on development of low in the south.

Headline for Friday 23 Feb 2024: Sunshine and scattered showers on Friday, wintry at height.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 23 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Heavy snow showers	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
40%	40%	30%	30%	40%	30%	30%	40%

Forecast for Friday 23 Feb 2024

Weather: A mix of patchy cloud, clear or sunny spells and scattered showers throughout the day. These showers falling as snow above 500m and heavy at times.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70%

Low cloud and visibility: Few or scattered cloud base 500-700m in association with showers. Visibility poor in hill fog or snow, slightly reduced in rain, otherwise good.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 23 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	28/34 W	28/35 W	29/35 W	26/33 W	20/26 W	17/22 SW	15/19 SW	14/18 S	14/17 S
600	23/31 W	24/33 W	24/32 W	23/31 W	19/26 W	16/22 SW	12/16 SW	12/17 S	13/18 S
300	9/25 W	10/26 W	11/27 W	11/26 W	10/22 W	9/19 W	4/13 SW	4/13 S	4/12 S
Valley	9/23 W	11/25 W	11/24 W	12/25 W	11/22 W	10/19 W	5/12 SW	4/12 SW	5/12 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-11	-3/-11	-3/-12	-3/-11	-2/-10	-2/-9	-2/-9	-3/-8	-3/-8
600	-1/-8	-0/-8	-1/-8	-0/-8	0/-6	1/-5	-0/-5	-0/-5	-1/-6
300	1/-2	2/-2	2/-3	2/-2	3/-1	3/-0	2/-0	2/-0	1/-1
Valley	4/1	4/1	4/1	5/1	6/2	6/3	5/3	4/2	4/2
Freezing Level*	500m	500m	500m	500m	500m	500m	600m	600m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling very cold, especially at height, be prepared with appropriate layers.

Forecast for Saturday 24 Feb 2024

Weather: A similar day to Saturday with scattered showers and sunny spells throughout the day, snow falling on hill tops above 600m at first, lifting to higher levels during the afternoon. Showers mostly dissipating into the evening.

Maximum wind: South to southwesterly 5-10 mph, mainly light

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70-80%

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered cloud base 500-700m in association with showers, clearing into the evening. Visibility poor in hill fog or snow, slightly reduced in rain, otherwise good.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 rising to plus 6 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 2 rising to Zero Celsius
Freezing level: 600m, rising 800m later in the afternoon

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 22 February Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:45 Temperature: minus 1.8 deg C Maximum wind speed 21.8mph Wind chill: minus 10.1 deg C Average wind speed: 16.7mph

Full report: For the second day running, this report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, showers are forecast which could fall as snow above 400m. Therefore walkers planning to be out on Friday should be prepared to encounter more snow and ice than experienced and described today. A fresh skittering (light dusting) of snow has settled above 800m. Despite a summit temperature around midday of minus 2 degrees C, the snow was thawing on aspects catching the sun. Above 900m on steep north and east facing aspects the fresh snow lies above old, hard snow whereas generally it covers what was bare ground. At present, with the snow cover being so thin, it represents minimal hazard to walkers. However, this will change should the fresh snow and wet ground freeze. This was starting to happen on the summit plateau which was intermittently covered with a very thin layer of snow and very recently formed ice. When/if this ice hardens as temperatures drop (which is forecast) conditions will be very slippery so walkers heading for the high fells on Friday are strongly recommended to carry microspikes and walking poles even though they were not needed today. Despite the appearance of daffodils in the valleys, the summit temperature at midday was, as mentioned, below freezing with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) a chillier minus 10 degrees C, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. A map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently in potentially poor visibility is also essential for anyone heading into the fells especially if more snow falls and paths etc disappear. Steep and exposed routes above the snow or freezing line require particular care. Striding Edge’s crest consisted of mostly bare, wet rock with a dusting of snow. Although Swirral was similar, there were also isolated patches of verglas (thin ice) on rocks which, surprisingly, were not found at the top of it (ie where it exits onto the summit plateau). With the ground still being so wet walkers attempting such routes on Friday should, again, be prepared and equipped to encounter more ice on rocks as the temperatures drop. Should more snow fall overnight, (the precise location of showers being very difficult to forecast) such exposed routes may require the use of crampons and ice axes. The summit views were magnificent today, so come properly equipped and enjoy them!

Issued at: 1618 on Thu 22 Feb 2024

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